

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated July 1, 2004. Claims 1-37 were pending in the application. In the Office Action, claims 1-37 were rejected. In this Amendment, claims 1, 13, 14 and 26 have been amended. Claims 1-37 thus remain for consideration.

Applicants submit that claims 1-37 are in condition for allowance and request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in light of the following remarks.

§103 Rejections

Claims 1, 3-14, 16-26 and 28-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Salazar et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,802,467) in view of Grundvig et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,061,435) and further in view of Mershon (U.S. Patent No. 6,212,282).

Claims 2, 15 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Salazar in view of Grundvig and further in view of Mershon as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Hill et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,470,189).

Applicants submit that the independent claims (claims 1, 13, 14 and 26) are patentable over Salazar, Grundvig, Mershon and Hill.

Applicants' invention as recited in the independent claims is directed to a system and method for enabling transmission and reception of an information signal to and from a home appliance via radio communication. Each of the claims recites generating a remote control signal upon arrival of an incoming call and sending the remote control signal to the home appliance by radio communication. Each of the claims further recites "[receiving] a confirmation signal from

said appliance indicating that said appliance has received said remote control signal.” Supporting disclosure for the confirmation signal aspect of Applicants’ invention can be found in the specification at, for example, page 12, lines 14-19.

Neither Salazar, Grundvig, Mershon nor Hill discloses a confirmation signal feature as recited by Applicants. Accordingly, Applicants believe that claims 1, 13, 14 and 26 are patentable over Salazar, Grundvig, Mershon and Hill – taken either alone or in combination – on at least this basis.

Claims 2-12 depend on claim 1. Since claim 1 is believed to be patentable over the cited references, claims 2-12 are believed to be patentable over the cited references based at least on their dependency on claim 1.

Claims 15-25 depend on claim 14. Since claim 14 is believed to be patentable over the cited references, claims 15-25 are believed to be patentable over the cited references based at least on their dependency on claim 14.

Claims 27-37 depend on claim 26. Since claim 26 is believed to be patentable over the cited references, claims 27-37 are believed to be patentable over the cited references based at least on their dependency on claim 26.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to these claims, as presented herein, are not made for

the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

Statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited references represent the present opinions of the Applicants' undersigned attorney and, in the event that the Examiner disagrees with any such opinions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the respective reference providing the basis for a contrary view.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,
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